

From: Dexter Anderson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/12/01 7:25am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

2001-12-12

Comments on the Microsoft Settlement

1. The action against Microsoft should never have been launched during the last Administration, and the sooner it is wound up, without damage to this quintessentially American company, the better.
2. We sometimes seem to have a death wish. As in the AT&T dismemberment of 1983/1984, we have in Microsoft a company that is admired throughout the world, yet some seem to derive a perverse satisfaction from seeing whether they can smash it up.
3. It is one thing to go after a company on antitrust grounds if it threatens to corner the market on a physical resource such as oil or silver. But intellectual property is infinitely expandable. If Microsoft does not keep investing better intellectual mousetraps, or if the buying public believes it is overcharging, it will quickly lose ground to competitors. The competitive system is self-correcting. There is no need for government to step in. There is need for government not to step in.
4. Microsoft's competitors should fight it in the marketplace, not in the courtroom. It's shameful enough for the CEO of a competing company to come whining to the Department of Justice when he fails to obtain the results he desires in the marketplace; it is downright disgusting to see him crossing the ocean to denounce his countrymen from Microsoft before officials of the European Communities.
5. The bundling charge took first place for absurdity. One may as well tell a car manufacturer not to include tires, or a radio, with his product.
6. The States should have no role in in the Microsoft matter or in similar matters involving companies that are clearly national in character.. The Constitution gives the regulation of interstate commerce to the U.S. Congress. The threat to companies of hostile action (sometimes, as in this case, politically motivated) by regulatory authorities of 50 states unnecessarily raises the cost of goods and services and harms U.S. competitiveness.

Thank you for considering my views.

Dexter Anderson
29 Sherwood Drive
Westerly, Rhode Island 02891-3701

andersondexter@home.com

CC: Anderson Dexter

